

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

RICHARD NIXON

Proclamation 4308

• August 20, 1974

Columbus Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Columbus Day, 1974, we again celebrate the historic achievement of the Italian sea captain whose courage and determination led him across uncharted oceans to a New World.

Sailing in the service of the Spanish crown, the voyage of Christopher Columbus marked one of history's most challenging and rewarding explorations. He opened this continent to the migration of settlers who created an enduring nation. The United States of America still carries forth his spirit of exploration as part of its national heritage.

Americans of the twentieth century strive to follow the vision and unshakeable faith of Christopher Columbus by seeking to discover a "New World" of peace and cooperation among all men.

In tribute to the achievement of Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), as modified by the act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as Columbus Day.

5 USC 6103.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Monday, October 14, 1974, as Columbus Day; and I invite the people of this Nation to observe that day in schools, churches, and other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies in honor of the great explorer.

I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in memory of Christopher Columbus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-ninth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4309

August 22, 1974

Women's Equality Day, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On August 26th, 1920, American women finally gained the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was certified as part of our Constitution.

Today, fifty-four years later, the women of America are actively participating in and contributing to all aspects of our economic, social and political life. Many obstacles on the road to equal opportunity have been removed as legislative and executive actions have helped to reduce sex discrimination in education, training and employment. Special efforts have been made in the Federal Government, so that women now contribute more fully than ever before to the formulation and execution of public policy.

But although we as a Nation have come a great distance since 1920, we still have a great distance to go. In 1970, on the floor of the House, I said that the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution was an idea whose time had come. Today I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to that amendment. The time for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has come just as surely as did the time for the 19th Amendment.

As 1975 approaches, widely proclaimed as International Women's Year, Americans must deal with those inequities that still linger as barriers to the full participation of women in our Nation's life. We must also strengthen and support laws that prohibit discrimination based on sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all Americans to observe August 26, 1974, as Women's Equality Day, with appropriate cere-